17. With a view to give a boost to the manufacturing sector, it is proposed in the Budget announcements 2002-03, to allow a deduction of a further sum of 15% of the actual cost of such machinery or plant acquired and installed after 31.3.2002 in case of new industrial undertaking or substantial expansion by an existing industrial undertaking. The proposed amendment will take effect from 1.4.2003 and will accordingly, apply in relation to the assessment year 2003-04 and subsequent years.

18. To encourage re-location of industries to India, Plant and mechineries would be permitted to be imported without a licence, where the depreciated value of such relocating plants exceeds Rs. 50 crores.

19. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

20. For reduction of transaction time for export/import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalised the scheme of 'Known-Shippers' for doing away with the 24 hours cooling off period.

21. Two shifts have been introduced on week days and single shift on holidays at the Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Goa.

22. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

Telephone Arrears

1675. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has to realise telephone arrears from many companies;

(b) if so, the details of the arrears against each company since January, 2001, State-wise;

(c) whether any concrete efforts have been taken/initiated by Government to collect such arrears; and

(d) if so, the details and results thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN):(a) and (b) The Department of Telecommunications has no telephone arrears as the operations were corporatised with effect from 1.10.2000. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL); the two public sector telephone providers maintain information on the arrears on telephone dues telephone number-wise and not Company-wise. The total 3 months old arrears of BSNL and MTNL against Private Subscribers as on 30.6.2002 are as follows:

BSNL	Rs. 2269 crores
MTNL	Rs. 247 crores

Circle-wise details is furnished in the statement (*See* below). These arrears have accumulated over several years mainly on account of defaulting subscribers.

(c) and (d) the steps taken by BSNL/MTNL to recover the arrears are:

1. The defaulters are disconnected when their dues are unpaid.
2. Targets for liquidation of outstanding is set and performance monitored against them each year.
3. High Power Committees and Liquidation Boards have been set up to facilitate liquidation of dues.
4. The collection efficiency is monitored each month.
5. Outstanding Pursuit Cells are functioning at Head Quarter level and also at circle level.
6. Where necessary, after disconnection of telephone, legal action is also initiated for recovery of the dues.

Statement

More than 3 Month's old telephone arrears as on 30.6.2002 against Private subscribers

Name of Circle	More than 3 month's old telephone Arrears as on 30.6.2002 against Private Subscribers (Rs. in Thousand)
Andaman & Nicobar	32389
Andhra Pradesh	2746723
Assam	437756
Bihar	981402
Jharkhand	470258
Gujarat	1698168
Haryana	608583
Himachal Pradesh	75918
Jammu & Kashmir	313807
Karnataka	1171932
Kerala	122623
Madhya Pradesh	739191
Chhattisgarh	222503
Maharashtra	2201682
North East-I	339657
North East-II	807001
Orissa	378163
Punjab	881840
Rajasthan	271711
Tamil Nadu	592035
Uttar Pradesh (East)	3121480
Uttrar Pradesh (West)	984256
Uttranchal	102106
West Bengal	765555
Kolkata	1817360
Chennai	801545
MTNLMumbai	913064
MTNL Delhi	1553362